



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

November 26, 2024

Welcome New DESE Food and Nutrition Services Staff!

Our DESE, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Section has welcomed several new faces the last couple of months and they are pictured below with their titles. Here are links to our updated [Region Map](#) and [FNS Contact list](#). Please share these links with other district staff to ensure you are contacting the correct team member in our section.

NEW FNS STAFF



SIERRA WALSH

Lead Nutrition Program Analyst



NIC GORHAM

Nutrition Program Specialist
Northeast Region



NAOMI COLLIER

Nutrition Program Specialist
East Region



BOBBI COLE

Nutrition Program Specialist
Northwest Region



BONNIE ETTER

Nutrition Program Analyst
Residential Child Care Institutions
Starting 12/4/2024



HEIDI GARLIN

Nutrition Finance Manager

Important School Nutrition Requirements and Resources

Updates to 2 CFR Part 200 Federal Uniform Guidance

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) updated Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), also known as the **Uniform Guidance**, including **2 CFR part 200**, is **effective October 1, 2024**. These updates are meant to further streamline, clarify, and update the guidance, including raising certain thresholds in recognition of inflation and other contributing factors. School food authorities (SFAs) should work with their finance department to ensure that updates are made at the local level to abide by updated federal regulations.

Background

The goal of the Uniform Guidance is to improve program performance, reduce the administrative burden on award recipients, and mitigate the risk of the inappropriate use of federal funds. The OMB worked with federal agencies to revise and streamline existing requirements to develop the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). The Uniform Guidance in part 200, which OMB established in 2013, consolidated, streamlined, and superseded requirements from several earlier OMB circulars and guidance documents related to federal financial assistance management and implementation of the Single Audit Act. Federal award-making agencies implemented the Uniform Guidance through an interim final rule, which became effective on December 26, 2014. OMB periodically reviews the Uniform Guidance in accordance with **2 CFR 200.109**. The last revisions were made in 2020.

Resources

- **Upcoming Changes to Uniform Guidance 2CFR200 (Effective October 1, 2024) – USC Department of Contracts and Grants**
- **Aid for Cost Threshold Updates to 2 CFR 200**

Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs

Effective school year (SY) 2027-28, families with students eligible for free or reduced price meals must not be charged any fees along with the cost of a meal, including fees for using electronic payment services. The **SP 04-2025 memo** is specific to fees associated with electronic/online payments made by households for school meals, and ensures students who are determined eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits receive the benefits they qualify for without having to pay additional fees, without shifting or increasing fees for students paying the full price for meals.

The Best Practices and Strategies portion of the memo includes that LEAs may negotiate contracts with payment processing companies for lower transactional fees; LEAs may also use general funds to cover the costs associated with providing electronic payment services; and funds from the nonprofit school food service account may be utilized to cover the cost of providing electronic payment services to families.

New Training Series from Team Nutrition: The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals

Team Nutrition is pleased to announce a new training series, **The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals**, to help schools plan and implement menus that support **updates to the school nutrition standards**.

This training series includes quarterly 1-hour live (and recorded) webinars co-hosted with the Institute of Child Nutrition. It also includes short on-demand trainings. Both are designed

to provide school nutrition professionals with quick tips, tools, and knowledge needed to meet the nutrition standards for added sugars and sodium and to help create a road map for successful school menu planning now through School Year 2027-2028.

Watch this recorded 1-hour webinar with the Institute of Child Nutrition:

- **Creating Your Road Map to School Menu Planning Success!**

Check out these short (about 15 minutes each), on-demand trainings:

- **Defining Added Sugars and How to Find Them On a Nutrition Facts Label**
- **Choosing Yogurt That is Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals**
- **Choosing Breakfast Cereals That Are Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals**
- **Choosing Flavored Milk That Is Lower in Added Sugars for School Meals**

The trainings above can count toward USDA Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs, Key Area 1000: Nutrition and Training Topic 1100: Menu Planning.

These trainings and more are also available at **Institute of Child Nutrition's iLearn portal** and **USDA's Professional Standards Training Database**.

More trainings will be available soon. **Sign up** to receive announcements and newsletters to stay up-to-date! Check out **Team Nutrition's website** for more menu planning, nutrition education, and promotion materials.

Additional Training Resources

On the DESE Food and Nutrition Services **Serving with Success** and **Trainings page**, you will find pre-recorded training videos, previous "Let's Talk Tuesday" Webinars and more!

Farm to School

Local Food for Schools (LFS) Grant

Funding is still available for the LFS Grant during the 2024-2025 school year. Scan the QR code below to get started and apply!

How to Apply:

1. Review the training recording.
2. Complete the request for applications.
3. Submit written plan describing how you will spend the funds.

Scan the QR code to get started!



MO DESE Food & Nutrition Services
foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov

Congrats to the following schools that have previously been awarded LFS funds:

Blue Springs R-IV
Raymore Peculiar
Ballard R-II
Springfield Public

Holy Rosary-Clinton
Northeast Vernon County
Carl Junction R-I
Lindbergh Schools
Dunklin R-5
Pilot Grove
Pleasant Hope R-VI
Laredo R-VII
Miami R-I
Montrose

Reminders and Important Information

Missouri HealthNet Form - Attachment M

The number of families indicating the absence of healthcare insurance and the number of forms provided to the family is to be reported to our FNS office on the MO HEALTHNET FOR KIDS DATA COLLECTION form (Attachment M) and is due **November 30th**. The Attachment M form can be found on our website along with all other **Free and Reduced Price Information and Attachments**. If information is updated after the initial due date, **submit a revised form**. If you have already submitted a form for this SY and do not need to send a revision, **it has been received**.

Verification Information

Provided is a link to the **Verification information and procedures** for the 2024-2025 school year. **As a reminder, the verification report is due December 15th**.

Additional Verification Resources:

- **Verification Step-by-step Summary**
- Recorded Verification Trainings are available on our **Trainings** page
- **USDA Verification Toolkit**

And Justice for All Posters

And Justice for All (AJFA) poster printing is pending departmental clearance. Our office will inform LEAs when the new *AJFA* posters will be available. LEAs may continue using the 2019 *AJFA* poster for display. The current posters can be found on the FNS website at: **And Justice for All Posters (Guidance and Translations) | Food and Nutrition Service**

Administrative Reviews

The Administrative Review list is now posted on the DESE FNS website – **Administrative State Agency Reviews**. In addition to a comprehensive list of schools to be reviewed in the upcoming school year, we have also provided a list of schools that will be receiving a review via CN Resource. If you are on the **2024-2025 Schedule of Administrative Reviews**, you will be receiving an AR in the upcoming school year. If you are also listed on the Reviews to be Conducted by CN Resource, this means that you will be receiving a review from CN Resource, rather than DESE Food and Nutrition Services. Those that are on the **CN Resource list**, please be on the lookout for correspondence from CN Resource as they will be the ones to reach out in regards to your upcoming review.

Shout Out to Marshfield R-1



Ashlynn Bradley is the latest addition to the Marshfield R-I's food service team as their new Food Service Director. She was eager to participate in National School Lunch Week (NSLW) by unveiling a fresh dish each day for the students.

The menu featured exciting new items like Chicken Alfredo Flatbread, Burrito Bowls, Totchos, Walking Tacos, and Nardone's Pizza!

To spark enthusiasm among the students, Ashlynn promoted these new dishes with eye-catching posters. Undoubtedly, NSLW and the introduction of these new dishes were met with great success at Marshfield R-I!

Thanks to Abbie McFerron, Nutrition Program Specialist of the Southwest Central Region for taking these photos while on review at Marshfield R-I.



USDA Foods Update



Bonus Direct Delivery for 24/25 SY

We are again offering Bonus Direct Delivery (brown box) items that you may select and add to your Gold Star orders.

Once approved, Bonus items will be added to your Live Inventory and automatically shipped to your district on your next Gold Star delivery.

Items currently available for Bonus include:

- White Flour
- Chicken Fillets, frozen
- Green Peas, frozen
- Broccoli, Frozen
- Salsa
- Brown Rice
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese, reduced fat
- Spaghetti
- Parboiled Rice
- Beef Crumbles
- Diced Chicken

- Diced Apricots, canned
- Tortillas, whole wheat
- Canned Carrots
- Garbanzo Beans
- PLUS more items advertised by individual school districts!

To request bonus items, log in on the **Gold Star website**. On the left panel, click on Advertisements under the USDA Direct Delivery Header. Then request the item(s) you would like.

Cancellations, Delays and Substitutions

While most of our direct delivery foods (brown box) are being delivered as scheduled, we have some products that have been delayed or returned by AMS to be rebid. If there are direct delivery items you requested on your packet, but have not received as scheduled, please consult the Canceled and Adjusted Direct Delivery (Brown Box) Orders <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/canceled-and-adjusted-usda-food-direct-delivery-brown-box-orders>

Be Aware

We have found that Gold Star has charged some LEAs a minimum order fee on their delivery invoices for their commodity orders. There is not a minimum order fee, so this should not be charged to your district. We are working with Gold Star to correct those that we have found, but please be aware that you should not pay a minimum order fee for your USDA Foods delivery. Please let us know if you have been charged, so we can make sure it is corrected. Contact us at donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov or 573-751-1706 to report this issue.



Upcoming Missouri Commodity Foods Expos

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MO-DESE) is again partnering with Heart of America (HOA), the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), the St. Louis School Food & Nutrition Directors Association (SFNDA), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to provide two **Commodity Expos** in conjunction with the HOA and SFNDA trade shows.

The Free event will begin with commodity food updates, information for the 25/26 SY, and classes for those new to the commodity program. There will also be other continuing education classes and a networking reception the evening before each expo. The vendor showcases will feature processed commodity products and commercial products.

Please register for the event (or events) that you would like to attend.

Kansas City – February 5, 2025

HOA/KSDE/MO-DESE Commodity Expo and Vendor Showcase

KCI Expo Center

11730 N Ambassador Dr, KCMO, MO 64153

[View on map](#)

CLICK HERE to register for Kansas City 2025 HOA/KSDE/MO-DESE Commodity Expo and Vendor Showcase

Kansas City discounted hotel room rates are available at Embassy Suites ([book here](#)).

St. Louis – February 18, 2025**SFND/ISBE/MO-DESE Commodity Expo and Vendor Showcase****River City Casino**

777 River City Casino Blvd., St. Louis, MO

[View on map](#)

CLICK HERE to register for ST. LOUIS 2025 SFND/ISBE/MO-DESE Commodity Expo and Vendor Showcase

St. Louis discounted hotel room rates are available at River City Casino & Hotel ([book here](#)).

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you to Patti Turner, Food Service Director at Kirbyville R-VI, for sharing your Thanksgiving meal picture with us!

Kirbyville students enjoyed a delicious lunch supported with USDA Foods and prepared by the amazing Kirbyville food service staff.

Email us a picture of your school meal tray and/or a best recipe and we will share some in upcoming newsletters!



Past Newsletters

Missed a past newsletter or need to access them again? You can find them all on our [Food and Nutrition Services Newsletter page!](#)





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